

## IN THE REALM OF MUSIC

Miss Muzio Sings in "Aida" at the Metropolitan Opera House.

By Frank H. Warren.

Miss Claudia Muzio made her re-entry into the Metropolitan Opera ranks last evening singing the title role in "Aida," destined apparently to be ever fresh and popular. Miss Muzio had numerous admirers in the large audience, some of them versatile gentlemen who can shout "bravo" in any language. Miss Muzio has a voice good to listen to and she uses it as skillfully as many of her associates, but she is seldom impressive in her singing. There is no drive behind it, no sweep. Mr. Martinelli with Radames, William Gustafson the king, Mme. Matzenauer an imposing Amneris, Mr. Marodon the Ramfis and Mr. Danie an excellent Amnaro.

The Chicago company's offering was "La Boheme," no stranger in our midst. Edith Mason as Mimì made her second local appearance with the organization and again she satisfied with her singing, but was weak on the

dramatic side. Tino Pattiera, a new tenor, has the voice and knows how to use it. A good performance was followed by the pantomime ballet, in one act, "La Fete a Robinson," the simple story of which was devised by the leading dancers of the company, Messrs. Parley and Oukrainsky, and set to music by Gabriel Grovies, who conducted it last evening. The place is Paris, about 1850, and the costumes naturally are fetching. The ballet starts briskly and introduces Broadway's funniest waiter of the season. There is a let-down in the action half way through, because solo dancers must have something to do, but the closing moments make up lost ground. There is nothing especially original about the divertissement but the finished manner in which it is executed makes much of little. It shows what simple technique will accomplish. The music fits the pantomime, all it is intended to do.

Another novelty to New Yorkers was the performance in the afternoon in Carnegie Hall of Gustave Mahler's "Song of the Earth," the text taken from a collection of Chinese poems and put into German. The Society of the Friends of Music are responsible for this performance—the first in America. Mme. Charles Cahier, contralto, came across the ocean to sing

a part of it; Orville Harold had the tenor role and the Metropolitan Opera orchestra, directed by Mr. Bodansky, provided the accompaniment.

"The Song of the Earth" is made up of those texts: "The Drinking Song of the Workfulness of the Earth," "The Lonely One in Autumn," "Of Youth," "Of Beauty," "The Drunken One in Spring" and "The Farewell," a song cycle, in other words. For music, our choice was "Of Beauty," but the words of "The Drunken One in Spring" ring about them. We should like to see the original Chinese of Li-Tai-Po, the author. It may be his lyric lost something in the translation. Mme. Cahier did her part commendably and Mr. Harold likewise sang some difficult music extremely well. Mr. Mahler as a rule is uneven in the quality of his composition, and briefly, we should put a similar tag on this work.



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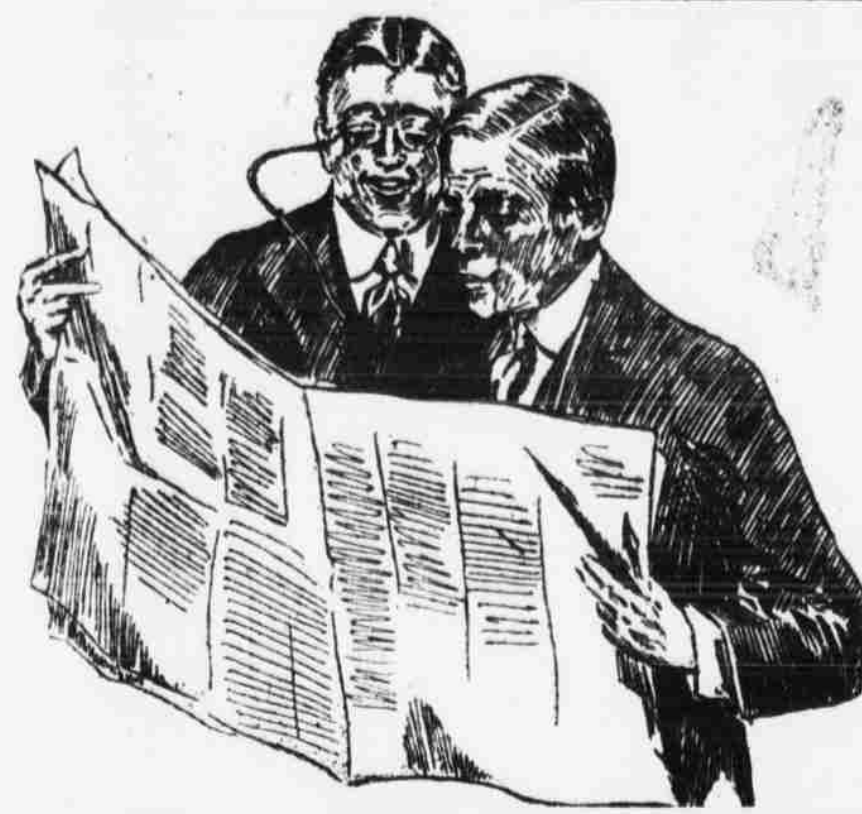
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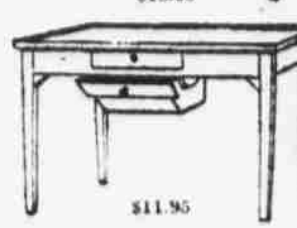
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